

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 6, 7 and 11-21 are now pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102 AND § 103

Claims 1, 3, 6 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over Estberg, et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,148,337). Claims 2 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Estberg, et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,585,584) in view of Miloslavsky, et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,981,020), in further view of Cravo De Almeida, et al. (2003/0055931). In view of the amendments and comments herein, these rejections are respectfully traversed.

In applicants' system the usage data being captured can be flexibly delivered: immediately over a communications link to the subscribing management system when such communication link is available. When not available, the usage data is retained. In order to more fully distinguish applicants invention in this regard, independent claims 1 and 6 have been amended to recite this aspect of applicants' system.

In addition, the applicants' system is capable of delivering usage data according to three different delivery techniques: (a) immediate data forwarding; (b) polled data forwarding; and (c) push data forwarding. The storage agent is configured to retain data for a configurable period of time, based on the delivery technique used. In this way, the data consumption needs of a variety of different subscribing management systems can be

supported, while ensuring that the system data store is efficiently flushed of acquired data after it is no longer needed to be retained.

In order to more fully distinguish applicants' invention in this additional regard, new independent claim 21 has been added. Support for this new claim may be found in paragraphs [0020] and [0021] of the specification.

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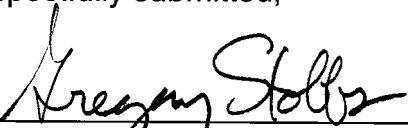
Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 08-0750, under Order No. 9637-000075/US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

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Respectfully submitted,

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